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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/076,605	02/19/2002	Jun Fujimoto	401578	2306

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EXAMINER	
SHAPIRO, JEFFERY A	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3653	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
04/23/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/076,605	FUJIMOTO, JUN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	JEFFREY A. SHAPIRO	3653	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *11 February 2008*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 45, 49-51 and 54* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *4,6,8,10,11,45,49-51 and 54* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2/11/08 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 4, 6, 10-11, 49-51 and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cassidy et al (US 5,615,625) in view of Dobbins (US 2002/0063034A1), further in view of Blad et al (US 2002/0063035 A1) and still further in view of Peterson et al (US 6,170,515 B1).

As described in Claim 49, Cassidy discloses a portable safe (20), a docking station (18) and a depot station (12), remote from said docking station, in which banknotes or checks are feed to or from said safe. Note that said safe is able to be transported by a single person depending upon the strength required to lift it.

Said safe transfers information by RF interface (90) to a monitoring station, which can be construed as a currency control device. Said safe also transfers information using smartbox interface (106).

Regarding Claims 4,6, 10, 11, 49 and 50, Cassidy further discloses an anomaly detection device in the form of an electronic monitoring system within said safe (20) that obtains data from various sensors, such as optical sensors (56, 58 or 60) which detects if a sliding door or lid is open. The wall of the container has a foil conduction sensor (62) that detects destructive compromising of the safe walls, such as by drilling. Battery level, temperature and humidity sensors (66, 68 and 70) are also included.

Cassidy also discloses a level sensor (82) which detects orientation of the safe. RF interface (90) communicates anomaly detection to the remote monitoring station. A connection anomaly is detected if the time the safe is not connected to a depot or deposit station exceeds a predetermined limit. See col. 5, lines 19-23.

Regarding position, the safe contains a GPS receiver which transmits its position to the monitoring station. See col. 5, lines 63-67.

Regarding Claims 49 and 51, Cassidy does not expressly disclose, but Dobbins discloses use of a wirelessly networked safe system.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have incorporated wireless networking, as taught by Dobbins, in Cassidy's portable safe system with deposit, depot and monitoring stations.

The suggestion/motivation would have been to reduce setup required as well as decrease the wiring required as well as costs. A wireless system is also well-known to

provide greater flexibility, as evidenced by the incorporation of access by handheld devices (140) to the system. See Dobbins, paragraphs 20 and 21. This motivation and teaching provided by Dobbins as well as Cassidy's RF interface (90) and remote paging system, would have led one ordinarily skilled in the art to have incorporated wireless communications technology throughout Cassidy's system.

Cassidy does not expressly disclose, but Blad discloses using cassette systems with a gaming system as well as vending or "similar currency accepting machine[s]". See Blad, paragraph 19.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have used Cassidy's cassette and docking system in a gaming environment, with the depot and deposit stations being game-related machines.

The suggestion/motivation would have been that gaming machines are functional equivalents to vending machines or ATM's in that they all concern currency handling. One ordinarily skilled in the art would have therefore found it obvious to use Cassidy's cassette and docking system in a gaming environment, as evidenced by Blad at paragraph 19.

Regarding Claims 49 and 54, Cassidy discloses the currency control system as described above.

Again, note that Cassidy discloses the detection of the disconnection of a safe from the host machine and teaches that upon detection that a particular event has occurred and detection that a predetermined time limit has elapsed, a dye pack is

detonated. See col. 5, lines 19-23. Note that Cassidy's safe is both connected and disconnected from the host machine, i.e, the deposit and depot stations (10, 12).

Cassidy does not expressly disclose, but Peterson discloses an anomaly detection section (86) in the form of a set of electrical contacts, switches or proximity sensors (90, 92), which upon detecting connection or disconnection of an element such as a fluid connector, sends a signal which actuates an alarm and causes recording of the connection and/or disconnection of the connector with a manifold. See col. 6, lines 12-35.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have added an anomaly detection section, as taught by Peterson, in Cassidy's currency control system, for the purpose of detecting the connection and disconnection of Cassidy's portable safe.

One ordinarily skilled in the art would have recognized that since the disconnection of Cassidy's safe beyond a predetermined time limit is measured in connection with the dye pack detonation, it would have been obvious to also cause an alarm to go off in place of the dye pack detonation once the predetermined time period has been met, as taught by Peterson. It also would have been obvious to record the connection, disconnection and reconnection times of the safe/container (20) since one ordinarily skilled in the art would have found these events critical in detection of an abnormal time period of removal from the main host machine, thus indicating possible pilferage of the valuable contents inside.

4. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cassidy et al (US 5,615,625) in view of Dobbins (US 2002/0063034A1) and further in view of Blad et al (US 2002/0063035 A1) and further in view of Kenyon (US 4,819,866).

Cassidy discloses the currency handling system described above.

Cassidy does not expressly disclose, but Kenyon discloses a currency holding machine that is protected by impact sensors. See Kenyon, col. 9, lines 63-67.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have incorporated an impact sensor within Cassidy's portable cassette, as taught by Kenyon.

The suggestion/motivation would have been to improve the security of the cassette by detecting any shock or load indicative of an attempt to damage or gain entrance to the cassette. See again Kenyon, col. 9, lines 63-67.

5. Claim 45 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cassidy et al (US 5,615,625) in view of Dobbins (US 2002/0063034A1), further in view of Blad et al (US 2002/0063035 A1), further in view of Wells (US 5,330,185) and still further in view of Fujita et al (US 5,836,435).

Cassidy discloses the system described above.

Cassidy does not expressly disclose, but Wells discloses a gaming card vending machine (see figure 1) having card dispensing port (25, 27, 29, 33, 35 and 37), payment means (41) allowing payment by bills, coins or credit.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have replaced Cassidy's ATMs with game card vending machines having game card dispensing ports.

The suggestion/motivation would have been to manage distribution of currency to and from various cash transaction systems, as taught by Blad at paragraph 19.

Official notice is taken that Wells' gaming card vending machine would have had a currency discriminator and a currency cassette since it is well-known to handle currency using a discriminator to validate currency according to its genuineness and to store currency in a storage area after discrimination.

As further evidence, note that Fujita discloses a currency discriminator (8a) and a currency cassette (50). See Fujita, figure 4. It would have been obvious to include a discriminator and cassette for the purpose of determining the genuiness of bills fed to the currency processor with acceptable bills sent to a currency cassette for the purpose of storage.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 2/11/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant asserts that Applicant's amended claim language in Claim 49 overcomes the prior art, specifically, Cassidy's smart container system. Applicant has amended Independent Claim 49 to read as follows.

49. (Currently Amended) A currency control system comprising:
a portable safe for holding currency;
a game-related device to which said portable safe is removably attachable, said portable safe functioning as a currency holding section of said game-related device when said portable safe is attached to said game-related device, wherein said currency holding section provides at least one of (i) holding currency inserted from outside said game-related device, and (ii) holding currency to be discharged from said game-related device;

a currency control device to which said portable safe is removably attachable and which is located at a position remote from said game-related device, and, when said portable safe is attached to said currency control device, said currency control device provides at least one of (i) transferring currency into said portable safe from said currency control device and (ii) transferring currency held in said portable safe from said portable safe to said currency control device, wherein said portable safe exchanges information by wireless communication with said game-related device when said portable safe is attached to said game-related device or with said currency control device when said portable safe is attached to said currency control device;

a system control computer providing unitary control of quantities of currency in said game-related device, said portable safe, and said currency control device;

an anomaly detection device for detecting occurrence of a connection anomaly ~~occurring when~~ by measuring

a first time that begins upon disconnection of said portable safe ~~is attached neither to~~ from said ~~game related~~ currency control device ~~nor~~ and that continues until connection of said portable safe to said ~~currency control~~ game-related device ~~for too long a time;~~ and

an anomaly notifying section for issuing an anomaly notification ~~when~~ each time the first time measured by said anomaly detection device ~~has detected an anomaly~~ exceeds a threshold time period.

Note also that the recent decision rendered in KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc., 550 U.S._, 82 USPQ2d 1385 (2007) forecloses the argument that a specific teaching, suggestion or motivation is required to support a finding of obviousness. See recent Board decision Ex Parte Smith, --USPQ2d--, slip op. at 20, (Bd. Pat. App. & Interf. June 25, 2007) (citing KSR, 82 USPQ2d at 1396) (available at http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/dcom/bpai/prec/fd071925.pdf).

Cassidy discloses the structure in the form of the container with circuitry and sensors that allow the time the container is not connected to any station to be monitored. Cassidy mentions at col. 4, lines 31-col. 5, line 27 that a processor (74) monitors various sensors (56-62, 66, 68, 70). Cassidy further discloses in col. 5, lines 19-23 as follows.

> The processor 74 also monitors the time which has elapsed since the container was dispatched from the deposit station, and will detonate the dye pack when the elapsed time exceeds a predetermined limit. This limit can be preset by the user.

Cassidy discloses that "the time elapsed since the container was dispatched from the deposit station" is monitored. Meriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 10th Ed., p. 335, defines the word "dispatch" as

1. to send off or away with promptness or speed;

2a. to kill with quick efficiency;

2b. deprive;

3. to dispose of (as a task) rapidly or efficiently;

4. defeat.

In the context of Cassidy's sentence cited above, the first definition appears to be the meaning conveyed. Thus, the container was "dispatched" or "sent away" from the deposit station promptly.

Cassidy illustrates the container (20) and its interface with the docking stations (18) located in the host machines in the form of deposit and depot stations (10, 12).

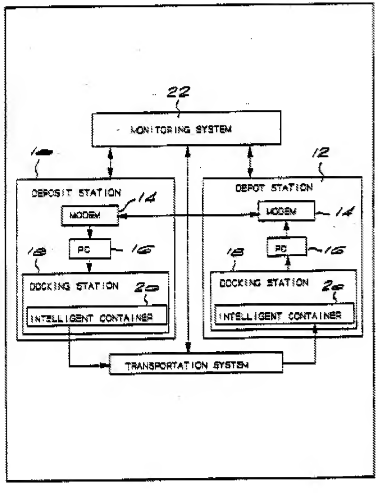
22
MONITORING SYSTEM
DEPOSIT STATION
DEPOT STATION
MODEM
MODEM
PC
PC
DOCKING STATION
DOCKING STATION
INTELLIGENT CONTAINER
INTELLIGENT CONTAINER
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

FIG 1

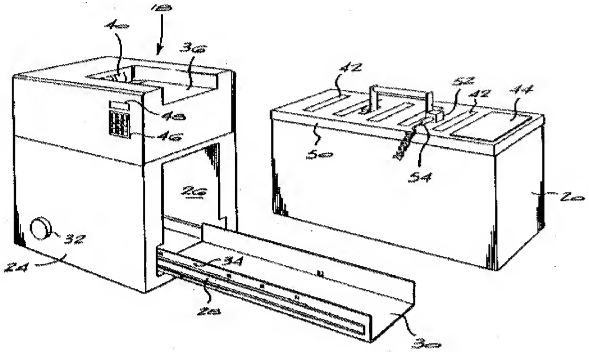

Fig. 2

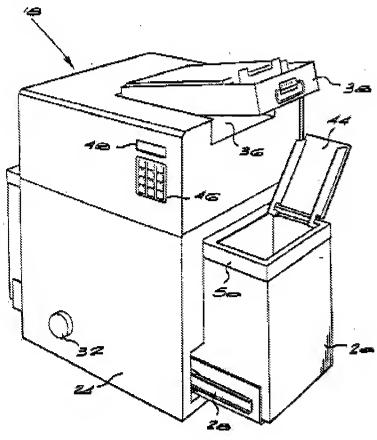

FIG 3

As can be seen from figures 1-3, dispatching, i.e., "sending away" the intelligent container (20) from the deposit station (10) promptly requires it to be removed, i.e., disconnected from said deposit station. The time away from this deposit station is what is timed and detected. Once this time reaches a predetermined time, the dye pack is detonated. Thus, Cassidy arguably discloses that a first time is detected and

determined from at least the time the container (20) is detached from deposit station (10).

Peterson teaches the following at col. 6, lines 11-28.

> FIG. 7 illustrates an alternative embodiment of the invention which further includes an electrical sensor system 86 for generating a signal indicating which of the outlets of the manifold 10 are connected by the fluid connector 44. In the embodiment shown, an inverted U-shaped electrical conductor 88 is attached to the actuating bracket 78 so that when the fluid connector 44 is in place upon the fluid outlets 28 and 30, the conductor 88 will engage electrical contacts 90 and 92, thus completing an electrical circuit 94 to generate an electrical signal which can be detected or displayed by indicator means 96. Alternatively, the conductor 88 could be replaced by a non-conducting contact member and the electrical contacts 90 and 92 could be replaced by switches. Another alternative would be the use of proximity sensors or other means for generating a signal in response to the presence of the fluid connector 44 or a structure attached thereto.

Peterson goes on in col. 6, lines 29-33 as follows.

> The signal generated by the system 86 can be utilized to actuate a display on a control board, to actuate an alarm, or to provide data to a recording system which records the time of connection and disconnection of the various fluid connectors with the various fluid outlets of the manifold 10.

Since Peterson teaches the recording of the time of connection and disconnection of an item, and Cassidy discloses connection and disconnection of the intelligent container (20) to and from stations (10 and 12), it would have been obvious to one or ordinary skill to have concluded that such an electrical sensor system as taught by Peterson would have been useful in Cassidy's intelligent container to detect times of connection and disconnection since the times these events occur are indicative of

whether or not abnormal activity is being carried out that is indicative of a security breach.

Applicant's new Claim 54 reads as follows.

> 54. (New) The currency control system according to claim 49 wherein the anomaly detection section measures a second time that begins upon disconnection of said portable safe from said game-related device and that continues until connection of said portable safe to said currency control device, and
>
> said anomaly notifying section issues an anomaly notification each time the second time measured by said anomaly detection device exceeds a threshold time period.

Again, note that Peterson discloses a device that detects a disconnection and a connection or reconnection of one element with another element. Since Cassidy discloses a safe (20) that is connected, disconnected and reconnected to stations (10, 12), it therefore would have been obvious to combine Cassidy with Peterson's teaching to obtain Applicant's claimed apparatus as described in Claim 54.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JEFFREY A. SHAPIRO whose telephone number is (571)272-6943. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick H. Mackey can be reached on (571)272-6916. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jeffrey A. Shapiro/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3653

April 22, 2008